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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT EXAMINATION BRANCH

In re application of:)
     Richard Humpleman, et al.   )
)
 For: Method and Apparatus for a Home)
        Network Auto-Tree Builder   )
)
 Application No.:   10/606,296   )
)
 Filed: June 24, 2003   )
)
	Examiner: Philip C. Lee
	
	 Group Art Unit: 2152
	
	 Confirmation No.: 2879
	
	 Reply to Office Action
	 dated June 7, 2007

REPLY TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF JUNE 7, 2007

MS Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action of June 7, 2007, in the above-referenced patent application. Re-examination, re-consideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. No new matter has been added. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 01-1960. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed for that purpose.

      Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

      Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1-8.   (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) A method for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending server device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;

(b) receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said server device characteristic data; and

(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of sending said server device characteristic data to the client device;

step (b) further includes the steps of the client device receiving said server device characteristic data and generating said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and

step (c) further includes the steps of sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

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11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

creating a menu for selecting said server device among a plurality of server devices to activate said controllable function; and

displaying said menu on a browser based device.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to [[a]] the web page contained within said server device.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 13, wherein:

the step of creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least [[a]] one device control ~~that is associated with~~ for each of the plurality of server devices, and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to at least one type of graphical ~~to~~ and textual information ~~that is~~ contained in the server device ~~that is~~ and associated with the device control; and

the steps of displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

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15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the plurality of server devices; and

creating the device link page including said device controls associated with the plurality of server devices identified in the device link file.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with each of the plurality of server devices; and

storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link file.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving [[a]] the plurality of logical device names from the device link file;

storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link page; and

converting the plurality of logical device names to [[a]] the device controls.

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19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting that whether the server device is currently connected to the home network.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting an active status of the server device currently connected to the home network.

22. (Currently amended) A home network system comprising:

a server device;

a client device connected to the server device via a home network; and

a control protocol for the server device to communicate with the client device by:

sending server device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;

receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said server device characteristic data; and

sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22, wherein:

the server device sends said server device characteristic data to the client device;

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the client device receives said server device characteristic data and generates said second

request signal in response to said server device characteristic data; and

the server device sending the web page to the client device in response to said second

request signal.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the server device includes at

least one controllable function.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said server device among a plurality

of server devices to activate said controllable function; and

a browser displaying said menu on a browser based device.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24 25, wherein said menu comprises a web

page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24 25, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device

link page from the home network, the device link page including at least [[a]] one device control

that is associated with for each of the plurality of server devices, and the menu generator

associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to

at least one of graphical to and textual information that is contained in the server device that is

and associated with the device controls; and

the browser displays said device link page on a browser based device.

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim 27, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within each of said plurality of server devices.

29. (Currently amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the plurality of server devices; and

creating the device link page including said device controls associated with the plurality of server devices identified in the device link file.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the menu generator generates creates the device link page by further:

associating a logical device name with each of the plurality of server devices; and

storing the logical device names in the device link file.

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20 29, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by:

retrieving [[a]] the plurality of logical device names from the device link file;

storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link page; and

converting the plurality of logical device names to a plurality of device controls.

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32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22, further including a detector for detecting ~~the~~ an active status of devices currently connected to the home network.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the menu generator is a component of the client device.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the browser is a component of the client device.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the client device includes said browser based device.